ing 1993-94 India has imported a total of 6,27,033 tonnes of pulp and waste paper, which includes waste paper also.

(b) and (c) The quantity of waste paper collected in the country is estimated at 8 to 8.5 lakh tonnes per annum. Out of this about 7 lakh tonnes of waste paper is used for recyling by the paper and paper board industry.

(d) Domestic availability of waste paper is not adequate to meet the entire requirement of the industry. Therefore, import of waste paper is allowed. Besides requirement for high grade of waste paper to produce better quality of paper is met from imports.

(e) Pulp and waste paper is being imported from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas Belgium, Brazil. Canada; Channel IS Chile; Chinese Taipei; China PRP, Columbia Cyprus; Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, German Fed. Rep. Hongkong, Indonesia, Italy Jamaicia, Japan; Korea RP; Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherland, Newzealand, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Quatar, Rissua Saudi Arab. Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Srilanka, Switzerland, Tanzania REP, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, USA etc. 6,27,033 tonnes of pulp and waste papare was imported during 1993-94 at a total cost of Rs. 49,439.60 lakhs.

(f) and (g) Under the Export-Import Policy 1992-97 waste paper is freely importable.

Export-Import Policy is reviewed constantly and changes are made whenever required.

D'sbursement of duty drow back for Exporters

812. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have consituated a core group to look into the issues of delay in the disbursement of duty drawback claims for exporters;

(b) if so, whether the committee has been asked to submit the report by the end of March, 93;

(c) if so, what are the other points referred to by the committee;

(d) by when the committee is likely to submit its recommendations;

(e) whether it is a fact that the exporters have strongly urged Government to retain Section 80 HH and 80 HHE on long-term basis and also rationalise on the basis of computation so that exporters can do their export planning over a relatively longer period;

(f) if so, whether Government have accepted the suggestion; and

(g) if so, by when this is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Since the Rupee has been made convertible on the current and Trade accounts, the exporters are receiving the market value for their forex earnings. The rate of Direct taxation have been reduced substntially benefitting the exporters. Due to importance of export earnings for the balance of payment position, the support required by the exporters is being reviewed from time to time in the light of emerging external and internal factors.

Marine product exports from Visakhapatnam

813. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total marine products exported from Visakhapatnam Port during 1993-94;

(b) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh is fast emerging as the leader in marine product exports; and

(c) whether the MPEDA office will be shifted to Visakhapatnam to facilitate greater growth in marine product exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In 1993-94, 16108 Million tonnes valued at Rs. 454.11 crores were exported from Visakhapatnam Port.

(b) In Andhra Pradesh prawn farming is fast developing resulting in increased exports of Shrimp.

(c) A Regional Office of MPEDA is already functioning at Visakhapatnam.

Decentralising Operations of DGS&D

814. SHRI G. Y. KRISHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is to decentralise the operations of the Directorate General Supplies & Disposals (DGS&D);

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) By when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) In terms of the Government decision taken towards the end of 1991, on the basis of a policy review undertaken with regard to centralised purchase of stores and equipments required by various Central Government Ministries|Departments through the DGS&D, the work of procurement against adhoc indents has been transferred from the DGS&D and its Regional offices to various indenting Ministries|Departments alongwith officers and staff dealing with the work. However, DGS&D continues to handle the procurement of items of common use and in regular demand required by more than one Central Government Ministry|Department on Rate|Running Contract basis with the exception of POL products required by Ministry of Railways and Defence the procurament of which has been transferred to the two Ministries. Besides concluding Rate|Running contracts, DGS&D continues to render other services like inspection of stores, shipping and clearance of stores, etc. as before. There is no proposal at present under consideration of Government to further decentralise the functions of DGS&D.

Expanding equity base of MMTC and STC

815. SHRI G. Y. KRISHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for going to market to expand the equity base of MMTC and STC and, thereby reduce Government's stake to a minority holding; and

(b) if so, the reasons for Government ceding the majority and how MMTC and STC are expected to beef up their capital base with a fresh equity issue and what would be Governments share in the decanalised trade frame work?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Consequent upon the decanalisation of the import and export of a number of items hitherto canalised through STC and MMTC, Government have been reviewing the need to reorient and re-structure these Corporations in a manner consistent with a liberalised economy and a competitive environment. The matter is under govts. active consideration.

MPEDA's concetration on acquaculture

816. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MPED is only concentration on acquaculture and neglecting marine exports;